

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 16. 1709.

A Word more to your Charity to Strangers. I told you a Story, how some of our Nation were us'd abroad, for their Barbarity to Strangers in Distress, at home— I promis'd another, but I refer it to Experience. When our Seamen have been taken by the *French*, and set on Shoar to travel home, perhaps naked, to be sure empty, let them tell me, if they have never been reproach'd with the National ill Humour of the *English*— and if they have never been deny'd the Charity they have wanted, on that very Score.

It is true, we that live at home are not affected with what they feel that go abroad— But some of our Children may suffer for it hereafter, when in Distress they may want

Relief from Strangers.—The Sum of my Discourse is this— The Kindness shew'd to these poor People will help to wipe out the Blots, that lie on our Characters as *English* Men, abroad—And if these People are receiv'd kindly, harbour'd, reliev'd, and settled, it will be an unanswerable Return upon those that shall hereafter reproach us at home or abroad, with Want of Courtesie, or Want of Humanity to Strangers, when 10000 poor Strangers at a Time have been receiv'd by us, and put into a Condition to live and flourish among us.

And thus much for the Honour of relieving them.— The Policy of it I have spoken to, and shewn, how settling them may be our great Advantage—As to the Duty of Charity, a Debt you owe to him, that

that has set you above receiving, and made you capable of giving—I shall leave that as before, to the Divine; but I cannot quit the Argument, till I have given one persuasive Turn more, and if you can read it, without being mov'd, 'tis a Sign you have the less Sense of the Chequer-Work of Providence, and the Vicissitudes of the Affairs of this Life.

It is a very happy Experiment that we see before us in some of the *French* Nation, who being formerly Refugees here, have by Industry, Commerce, Application, and GOD's Blessing, gain'd good Estates—are now so ready to remember their own Condition, as that they open their Purse freely to the Relief of these poor Strangers—And we are told of one of these thankful *Samaritans*, that has given above 400 *l. Sterling*, to the present Charity; a noble Gift, and a Testimony of a Soul fill'd with a Sense of the Hand that has made the Difference.

Farther previous to what I am going to say, I am to note, that 'tis worth your observing, how frequently Families, especially in Trade, are flourishing and gay, rich and increas'd in Goods to day, and to morrow in Distress, under Bankruptcy, or ruin'd by Bankrupts, reduc'd by Losses, by Fire, Storms, Thefts, and Millions of Accidents, that concur to bring rich Families to Distress. How far need we go to see the Children of Aldermen and Mayors, the Posterity of great Merchants, nay even the greatest Merchants and richest People of this City, themselves begging Help and Assistance, from those that have formerly been their own Servants. I have been credibly inform'd, that the great Alderman *FORTH*, a Man well known in this City, and who was once esteem'd to have been worth above 100000 *l.* was most eminently supported, and in part sed by a Person, who he had rais'd by his meer Bounty and Charity from the lowest Distress—Not but that One of his own Brother-Aldermen met with a quite differing Fate—While making himself a Foster-Father to one of *Adam's* wretched Posterity, he found by sad Experience he warm'd a Viper to sting him, and nourish'd a Traytor to betray him—*But that by the way.*

The short Application of these Hints is this—Upon our relieving and settling

these poor People, it is very possible, some of them may grow rich; GOD's Blessing, and an industrious Hand can soon do it. Why not a *Palatine* Refugee be an Alderman or Lord-Mayor, as well as clouted Iron Shoes and Sheep-Skin Breeches? Why not a poor *Palatine* be a Landlord, as well as Cabbie-Boys become Admirals, and Misseteers Generals.

Now in this Case you lay in a Fund for the Distress of your Posterity, you raise Men to a Capacity that must be harden'd beyond the common Rate, if they have not more Compassion for the Miserable than other Men. *Charity begets Charity, he that rises from Charity will be the freer to exercise Charity.*—Thus you that give may come to want, and they that receive will be the easier mov'd to give.

Should a Man now rich and flourishing, hereafter in the Course of Providence come to Want and Misery, and beg Charity or Relief of one of these Refugees, by a like Turn of Sovereign Dispose grown rich—And should he say, Sir, so many Years ago I was rich, and gave freely 10 *Guineas* to the Relief of the poor *Palatines*, of which Money you had your Share—What Face of Flint must that Man have, that could reject so home an Application—*Thus take it in publick or in private.*

I know not, whether there ever was a greater Opportunity offer'd to this Nation, to show a Spirit of Honour, Generosity, and Charity—and with more Advantage to themselves, whether Nationally or Personally consider'd, since this was a Nation.

I know, nothing can be objected to me in this Matter, but this—Hold your impertinent Tongue, there is no Need of your Exhortation—If I was sure there was no Need of this, I would indeed hold my Tongue—But shall I refer you to the *Gazette* of the *Ninth* of this very Month, where you will find, the Commissioners, who are empower'd to dispose of these People, think there is need to obtain an Order of the Queen and Council, and her Majesty and Council thinks it not impertinent to make such an Order, *Viz.* To engage the Magistracy of *England*, Mayors, Justices of the Peace, &c. to be aiding and assisting to them, that they may be kindly entertain'd on the Road.

Gazette, August 9.

"Whereas a Number of the poor distressed Protestant *Palatines* are this Day set out for *Chester* in their Way to *Ireland*; Her Majesty, with the Advice of her Privy-Council, is pleas'd to order, That all Mayors, Justices of the Peace, and other Magistrates, be aiding and assisting to them, so that they may be kindly entertain'd, and civilly us'd, in the several Places upon the Road.

Now, Gentlemen, do your People want the Magistrates to keep them civil to them? Do your Magistrates want the Queen's Order to prompt them to see no Injury done the poor People? — And will you

say it is impertinent in me to move you to be charitable to them? — No, no, Gentlemen, your Temper to Strangers in general, and your Temper to these in particular, is too well known to me and all the World. I am in no Danger of being counted impertinent — But at last if I am — Make then my Impertinence appear by a general Struggle of Charity, distinguishing yourselves by your Zeal for so noble a Work, to the Glory of him who has made it your Duty, and to the Honour of your Country that has lain under so much Scandal about it; and then you shall be deliver'd from the Impertinence of my Importunities, and I'll be as forward to record your Zeal, as I have been to blame your Want of it.

MISCELLANEA.

A Word or two more about your Brethren in *Scotland*, Gentlemen, if you can bear it — Methinks I would fain put you in mind now and then, that you were lately united to them, for you seem sometimes as if you had forgot it.

Fisheries, Manufactures, Navigation, and all the great Improvements you were to make in *Scotland*, pray, Gentlemen, what are they come to? — All our great Promises, where are they? If *Scotland* will rise, she must rise without you, she must do it all her self: That you will take from her, is evident, in the general Recourse of the People of *Scotland*, to you, for all that is gay and luxurious, and in the general Expence of the Nobility and Gentry of *Scotland* at *London*. But what you will add to her, remains a Question, and will remain so, till some greater Evidence is given of your Inclination to encourage, improve, and encrease *Scotland*, than I yet see a Prospect of.

Now I shall not trouble my self to argue much for your Improvement of *Scotland*, upon the Foot of Promises on your side, or Expectation on their side — But if I have Room to make it out, how much it is your Interest, and how much your real Advan-

tage is wrapt up in it — then your Neglect of it hitherto will be a most severe Satyr upon your selves, you will pass for Knaves one way, and Fools another, as long as you decline embarking in the general Improvement of *Scotland*.

I began a little to argue with you some time ago about Improvement, and said the whole Stress of *Scotland*'s Prosperity upon the Improvement of her Lands — And I see no Reason yet to go from it — The Improvement of Land is the increasing the Value of it; and this is a Foundation, upon which Strength for War, and Stock for Trade, is originally founded, and all other Improvements are not only Consequences which DO flow from it, but necessary Consequences which MUST flow from it.

I shall return to this Argument, and pursue it, as the Course of this Paper, and its many Interruptions, will admit; but I think it cannot be amiss, before I resume that Part, to enter a little upon the Article of improving *Scotland* in general, in order to shew you the Madness and Folly of neglecting it, and the certain Advantage to us all in attempting.

In this I shall wave the general Thesis, that 'tis the Interest of the whole Body
to

to enrich every Part; that the Wealth of the Branches is the Prosperity of the Root; that the Deficiency of the remotest Parts is the Imperfection of the Centre, and the like; Things true in Speculation, but not at all regarded in Practice. But in my Pursuit of this Enquiry, I shall prove, that Scotland is now the great Field of Commerce, sufficiently capable to expatiate in, sufficiently encouraging to attempt, sufficiently extensive to receive and employ both People, Ships, and Stocks, to what Extent you please, and sufficiently profitable to allure your Adventurers—That to enrich Scotland, is to enrich your selves, and that there is more Money now to be gotten in Scotland by Trade, than in any Part of the World—And this without Projects, and Wild goose Attempts, without building Castles in the Air, and setting up Whymies and Windmills, to amuse and deceive the People, but by down-right Industry, common Applications, and pursuing the rational Consequences of Things, whether it be in Foreign Adventures, Fisheries, Manufactures, or Improvement of Land—And if this be made out, a small Stock of Logick will prove the Folly and Blindness of our Prejudices, that cannot persuade us, to make the Essay forsooth, because 'tis Scotland— I shall pursue in these Papers, not only a Proof of the Fact I alledge, viz. that such Advantages are made, but due Animadversion on the Folly and ill Nature of our neglecting these Advantages.

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